कंपनियों लगातार कामगारों का शोषण कर रही हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि मैसर्स इंडबोर, मैसर्स एश हैंडलिंग और मैसर्स डिजाइन कंपनी, ईस्ट आफ कैलाश, निकट सावित्री सिनेमा, नई दिल्ली के मालिकों ने अपने कर्मचारियों की सेवाओं का समाप्त कर दिया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने ऐसी कम्पनियों को अतिरिक्त हिदायतें दी हैं ताकि कामगारों/कर्मचारियों का शोषण रोका जा सके?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी॰ ए॰ संगमा): (क) से (घ) सरकार को, जब कभी श्रमिकों के शोषण के बारे में शिकायतें प्राप्त होती हैं, तब कानून के अनुसार आवश्यक कार्रवाई की जाती है।

दिल्ली सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि उन इकाइयों जिनके नामों का विशिष्टतः इस प्रश्न के भाग (ख) में उल्लेख किया गया है, के कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं समाप्त किए जाने के बारे में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

Mechanism to ensure relief to Consumers

1890. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers suffer from high price and scarcity in a year of scarcity, whereas in the year of satisfactory supply position these consumers are unable to derive proportionate benefit;

(b) whether Government have enquired into this aspect; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to evolve a mechanism to ensure relief to consumers in times of scarcity and reduced prices in time of abudance or a good crop?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The prices of certain essential commodities have risen essentially due to the gap between their demand and supply in the country. Despite increase in availability of foodgrains, the prices have risen due to increase in output costs which had necessitated higher minimum support price for procuring foodgrains for distribution under PDS and for market intervention to bring down the market prices. The prices of other items have tendency to rise once their input cost increases. The rise in the prices of wage goods also generally causes all other prices to rise after some time lag.

(b) and (c) Apart from taking certain long-term measures for increasing the production of commodities which are in short supply, immediate measures taken by the Government to augment the availability of these items include their imports under OGL and otherwise. Further items like rice, wheat, palmolein, sugar, kerosene and soft coke are distributed through the Public Distribution System at Prices below the open market prices. State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to supply other essentialy commodities like pulses, note books, etc. through fair price shops. Stringent action is being taken against blackmarketeers, hoarders and those including in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, etc. A close watch is being kept on the availability and price levels of essential commodities so as to enable the Government to take timely remedial measures for checking the rise in prices.

Amendment of Apprenticeship Act, 1961

1891. DR. GOPALARAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have amended the Apprentiship Act of 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof with purpose;

(c) whether such an amendment is in the interests of working class people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Apprentices Act 1961 has been amended twice so far, Once in 1973 to include Engineering Graduates & Diploma Holders as Graduate & Technician Apprentices and subsequently in 1986 to include the passed-out students from 10+2 Vocational Stream of education.

(c) Yes, Sir.